



Acquisition Today!

The Army Contracting Agency Northern Region Newsletter

October- December 2005

Volume 2, Number 4

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Notice: Links to commercial resources are for informational purposes only.

Director's Corner

Joann Langston, SES

Director, ACA NR

Happy New Year! The past year was a very successful year for ACA Northern Region. Pending any last minute updates to our statistics, as a Region, we obligated \$300 million more than FY04 at a cost per action of \$1037 less than last year. What does this mean? We bought about 10.5 percent more installation and mission support products and services for about 11.5 percent less money. We should be proud of ourselves as we take a short break to reflect on what went right and what we could do better next year.

On another note, just before the summer, I created an Integrated Process Team to look at the issues generated during the preparation of our Strategic Plan. This IPT was formed in response to the large number of weaknesses and threats identified by the Region's Center directors and DOC's during the ACA NR Strategic Plan SWOT analysis. Its final report focuses on 7 areas: Management and Leadership Issues, Budget and Staffing issues, Customers, Communications, Information Technology, Training and Personnel.

The report is in the final comment stages before submission, approximately November 15, 2005. For more about this IPT, please click [here](#).

Again, thank you for your hard work. We look forward to the challenges of FY '06.



**Joann Langston,
Director ACA NR**

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Newsletter
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This newsletter is intended to increase communications between the ACA NR Headquarters staff and the region's contracting offices.

Your input is vital. Please email the newsletter editor with news, ideas, opinions and calendar events for everyone to share.

Across the Region

We presented training to ourselves and our customers:

Fort McCoy- Small Business Specialist, **Dave Olson** spoke at a small business event in Green Bay, WI, in July with 60 participants. The event was hosted by the SBA of Milwaukee, The Business Procurement Assistance Center of Madison, SCORE, and Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.

NRCC: PRWeb Training was conducted by the **NRCC** at **Fort Leavenworth**, Kansas, 6 through 8 September 2005. This training encompassed both initial and refresher training. A total of 57 people attended the training, including 9 individuals from **Fort Riley**.

CDCC- The **Fort Hamilton DOC** conducted refresher Government Purchase Card training for card holders and billing officials. The training was conducted by Ms. **Angela O'Neal** from **CDCC** and Ms. **Hillary Gonzalez** from **Fort Hamilton**.

Our personnel attended training:

ARCC- S, Procurement Analyst, **Raymond Blauvelt** completed CON 353 to achieve Level III Certification.

Fort McCoy- **Laura McMann**, **Jim Pischke**, and **Stephen Loftus** completed CON 120 in July. **Kris Murray** completed CON 234 in July. **Gwen Duncan** completed CON 120 in August. **Gwen Duncan** and **Stephen Loftus** completed CON 100 in June.

Fort Meade- Director of Contracting, **Don Grskovich**, completed a three-day class, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" sponsored by the Franklin Covey Institute.

Minneapolis Satellite office- Mr. **Richard Hall** completed CON 111. Mr. **Richard Hillard** completed CON 202.

North Little Rock Satellite office- **Jennifer Winkler** completed CON120.

Wichita Satellite office- Contract Specialist, **Kay Brundage** completed CON110.

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Aberdeen Proving Grounds- Melissa Kerns attended the LEAD course from 15-19 Aug 05.

Fort Drum- Seven of the 9 CCOs assigned to the Fort Drum DOC have achieved Level II certification; the remaining two are on track to become Level II certified in FY 06. All of the CCOs follow a structured training plan and are fully involved in OJT rotational assignments within the DOC.

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In addition to training, our personnel also attended conferences:

Fort Drum- Guy Hunneyman, A/OPC for the GPC Program attended the GSA Smartpay Conference in Boston from 30 Aug to 1 Sep. GSA Smartpay team and industry partners challenged A/OPCs to reach new levels of expertise by offering nearly 200 courses, from computer labs with hands-on training, and providing the ideal environment to network with colleagues.

Dugway Proving Grounds- Director of Contracting Liz Reed was the speaker at the Women's Equality Day luncheon. The luncheon was a sellout and all organizations involved produced a quality event!

Fort Drum- Carol Romeo and Annie Semo participated in the Greater Watertown – North Country Chamber of Commerce's Business Fair on 26 October 2005 in Watertown, N.Y.

Unusual Things We Purchased

Fort Drum- The Purchasing Division procured a 200' to 1" 3-D terrain model of the Fort Drum Cantonment area (including the Wheeler Sack Airfield). The model will have over 2,000 buildings and will be used to simulate various Force Protection scenarios. Using a combined synopsis/solicitation, potential vendors were required to supply a 12"x12" sample model for evaluation by the requiring activity. The purchase order was awarded to Gamla Model Makers of Feasterville, PA in the amount of \$60,000.

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Congratulations to our award winners



2005 AAC Awards Ceremony Recognizes

Acquisition Stars: The acquisition community held its 2005 Army Acquisition Corps (AAC) Annual Awards Ceremony here Sunday, Oct. 2, 2005, at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott. The 2005 Army Acquisition Corps (AAC) Annual Awards Ceremony, held on October 2, 2005 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA, honored three ACA NR members. **Beth Mendell, ARCC, Mary Pat Shanahan, ARCC, and MAJ Robert Shelton, ACA NRHQ.** The event recognized the accomplishments of the acquisition workforce's most extraordinary members and the teams they lead. The ceremony's theme, "Celebrating Our Acquisition Stars," was a tribute to the uniformed and civilian professionals who work tirelessly behind the scenes to provide combatant commanders and their Soldiers the weapons and equipment they need to execute decisive, full-spectrum operations in support of the Global War on Terrorism. For details, click [here](#).

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Leisa Belcher (NRCC)- received the Joint Civilian Service Commendation Medal for her contingency contracting work in Iraq working for MG Urias in the JCC-I.

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Fort Riley- Achievement Medal. Awarded and presented to Ms **Mary Orr** by **COL Perkins**, FT Riley Chief of Staff during the monthly retirement ceremony on 28 Sep. DOC hosted a reception in her honor that same afternoon.

West Point- A letter of thanks and "official" Chemistry Department Cake were presented to **Pam Jones**. In part, the letter, from the Head of the Department of Chemistry & Life Science, says that Ms. Jones, "frequently works with the Department of Chemistry and Life Science as the 'procurement arm' of a team that specifies and purchases advanced instrumentation for a host of educational and research



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laboratories,” and “(t)he institutional knowledge that she brings to the table... is an invaluable intangible asset on which her colleagues have come to rely.” Along with the letter, she was presented with a special thank you cake honoring “Civilians are the Backbone of the Army.”



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ACA NR HQ- Lorie Henderson received the Competent Toastmaster Award (CTM) from Toastmasters International. Achieving the CTM means successfully completing 10 speech projects in the Communication and Leadership (CL) program. This is the heart of the Toastmaster club- developing communication and leadership skills one project at a time. This is the first track in a two track educational program. The other track is the leadership track. Upon completion, Lorie intends on moving up to the Advanced Communication and Leadership Program, which is designed to further enhance basic skills through a more career- oriented program. She is currently a member of the Old Point Comfort club #8413 at Fort Monroe and also serves as the club Secretary.

ARCC- At the GSA SmartPay Conference in Boston, **Ray Blauvelt** received a letter of appreciation from Ms. **Sandra Siebert** for his work on the Government Purchase Card (GPC) Army Regulation Integrated Process Team (IPT). According to the letter, Ray “directly affected the Army’s ability to provide the most comprehensive quality product to support the Army GPC Program.” Congratulations!

APG- Diane Schneider received a letter of appreciation from Mrs. Sandra O. Sieber at the GSA SmartPay Conference in Boston. Diane represented ACA NR on the ACA IPT team and US Bank in the development of ACCESS On-Line, a new generation of the C.A.R.E. on-line system.

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News you can use

New APG web page, “Customer Corner” improves communications between DOC and customers across the installation. The **APG DOC** website has a new link! The “Customer Corner” covers topics from acquisition planning to

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we are doing.



unauthorized commitments. Guidance and templates were added under NonDOD Contracts and Limited Sources Justification for GSA Orders/BPAs and MACs Over \$100K for use and preparation by the requiring activities. A popup customer survey has also been added to the homepage that, once completed, is sent by email for review and action, as necessary. The development of this survey was a result of the DOC draft strategy plan developed 2 years ago, but put on hold awaiting ACA guidance. It will also be used during the yearly self-assessment and management control process.

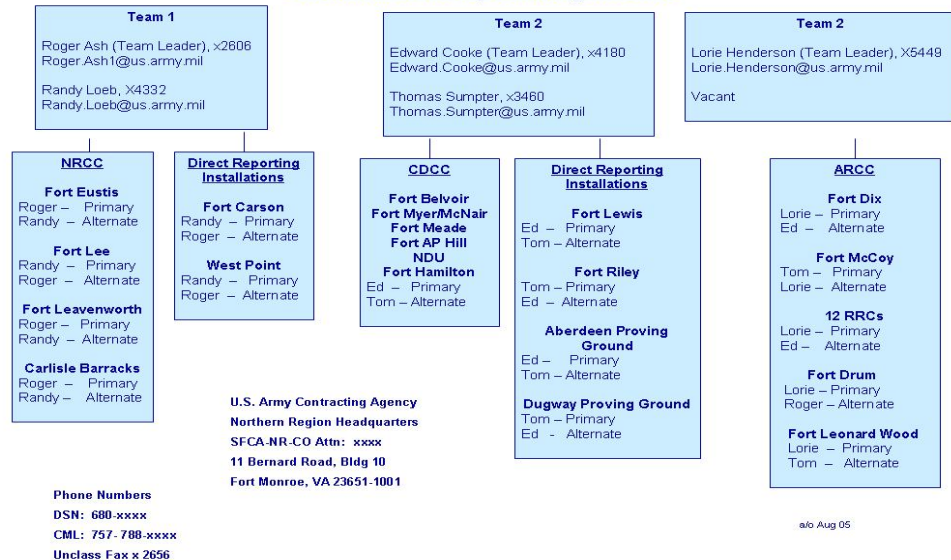
New domain name for FedBizOpps. Note that the FedBizOpps domain name, 'eps.gov', will be removed from FedBizOpps service effective 1 October 2005. On that date the domain name, 'fbo.gov', will become the primary FedBizOpps domain name for FedBizOpps buyer accounts, interfaces (ftp, email) and other related identifiers.

Please use only www.fbo.gov or www.fedbizopps.gov to access the FedBizOpps site after that date and update your links accordingly.

Aside from your having to use the domain name, 'fbo.gov', in place of 'eps.gov', this change should have no impact on day-to-day access to and use of FedBizOpps.

Updated Installation Analyst listing: There has been a reorganization of the ACA NR CONOPS installation analysts. By now, DOCs and Center Directors should already know who their analysts are, but just in case, here is the listing:

**Army Contracting Agency
Headquarters Northern Region
Installation Analyst Assignments**



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Update your telephone directories! Please note the new DSN for Fort Dix. Fort Dix DSN Exchange number has changed from 944 to 562.

For DoD Employees, free anti-spyware and antivirus protection for their home computers. DoD employees can now download PestPatrol anti-spyware software for use on their home PCs from the ACERT website:
<https://www.acert.1stiocmd.army.mil/Antivirus/antispyware.htm> and click on
https://www.acert.1stiocmd.army.mil/Antivirus/Home_Use.htm for antivirus software available for free download. If you are not already running good, current anti-spyware or antivirus software you are encouraged to install one of these products.

CAPPMIS system upgrades to Single Sign On. In order to continue to improve service to the Acquisition Community, the CAPPMIS product suite is upgraded to allow access to all CAPPMIS modules; the Individual Development Plan (IDP), the Acquisition Career Record Brief (ACRB) and others, with a single login.

This revised system removes the individual login screens of the modules and consolidates access into one interface. Changes to

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password and email requirements will be effective the first time you log into CAPP MIS at : <https://rda.altess.army.mil/cappmis>

Since the logins for all CAPP MIS modules have been consolidated, any bookmarks directed to old IDP or other old CAPP MIS login pages will be automatically redirected to the new CAPP MIS SSO login. You may wish to change your bookmarks to point directly to the CAPP MIS homepage (<https://rda.altess.army.mil/cappmis>).

As part of the Single Sign-On upgrade, the CAPP MIS product suite is also improving the overall security of the system by formally implementing strong password requirements for all users.

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Welcome!

New faces abound throughout the Region.

Dugway Proving Grounds is happy to welcome our new Management Assistant, **Debra Sosa** who prefers being called Dee. Dee is very enthusiastic and happy to be here and is working to make us more organized than we've ever been. What a difference she makes and how lucky we are to have her!

West Point: We hired a new Contract Specialist, **Norma Smith**, for an EEDAC position. She reported in mid-September. She lives in the area and is coming to us from the NY District COE contracting office.



CDCC- Mr. **Jae Nelles** reported for duty on 22 Aug 05. Mr. Nelles has been assigned as an ACTEDS intern in the contracting career program. Also, we would like to welcome **Kimberly Solomon** and **Andre Pelliccia** who reported for duty on 17 Oct 05.

NRCC is pleased to welcome Ms. **Monica White** as Procurement Analyst, in the Customer Support/Business Systems branch. She will be a great addition to our staff and we fully intend to exploit her SPS trainer role and contracting expertise she refined while at Defense Commissary Agency. NRCC also welcomes three FY05 DA Interns who arrived on 19 September 2005:

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This is how we measure how well we are doing.

Cynthia Watson, Crystal Rudko, and Paul Rogers.

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People of note

Congratulations on these Promotions:

Devens Satellite office- **Beth Castriotta** was promoted into the Contract Administrator position that was left vacant by the promotion of **Diane Fillebrown** to Supervisory Contract Administrator.

Carlisle Barracks Director of Contracting, **David Brigham** was recently promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. Congratulations!

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Farewell and Best Wishes

Other employee notes:

ARCC Procurement Analyst, **Rosa Cotto** left the ARCC to return "home" to Puerto Rico. Rosa's primary function was managing the ARCC GPC Program along with **Raymond Blauvelt**. Raymond Blauvelt has assumed her duties until the position can be filled.

Minneapolis Satellite Office: Mr. **Rick Hagar** has been mobilized and their GPC Program is being handled by Fort McCoy Procurement Analyst, **Bernie Honish**.

Fort McCoy- Procurement Analyst, **Bernie Honish** has assumed control of the 88th Regional Readiness Command GPC during the time that Mr. **Rick Hagar** is mobilized

Los Alamos Satellite office- Leadership of the office transitioned from LTC **Rick Edler** to **MAJ Cornell Irons** the week of 15 August 2005. LTC Edler went to PACOM with a 2 September 2005 report date. Major Irons comes to the ARCC from the CASO (Contract Administration Support Office) at USARC HQ.

Dugway Proving Grounds- **Les Pagano** has given notice that he is accepting employment with the Corps of Engineers and will be leaving about 15 September. He will be living and working in

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Savannah Georgia. We have both enjoyed him and appreciated his abilities. He is a wonderful worker and contributed greatly to the office. He has been here a short time, but he will be missed.

NRCC- Please join us in congratulating **Leisa Belcher** on her new position with the Special Operations Directorate.

West Point- Contract Specialist **Yvonne Parson** departed here on 30 September to Walter Reed Medical Center. She has been a solid, reliable member of the team working various simplified acquisitions.

CDCC- Ms. **Delena Rauanheimo** retired from the CDCC on 12 Aug 05 with 28 years federal service. Also, Ms. **Kimberli Gray** accepted a position with the Army Corps of Engineers as a Small Business Specialist. Ms. Gray left the CDCC on 12 Aug 05.

From the ACA NR headquarters staff- Please join us in congratulating **Camilla Tramuel** as she assumes a position at **NRCC** working with **Lance Beuschel** and his group. Camilla will begin her new assignment on Monday, August 22nd.

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Retirements:

West Point: **Dan Hamilton** retired in September. **Dave Bugger** will temporarily wear the Deputy and Division chief hat until we are able to select Dan's replacement.

Fort Riley: Ms **Mary Orr** retired during the monthly retirement ceremony on 28 Sep.

ACA NR HQ- The headquarters staff said farewell to our IMA LNO, **Dr. Edna Diggs** who retired at the end of September 2005.



Ms. Langston wishes Dr. Diggs farewell and thank you.

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Please remember our colleagues who are overseas.

During this time of military actions and increased OPTEMPO around the world, remember our fellow military and civilian contracting and contingency contracting people- from all of the military services and civilian agencies- currently serving in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other overseas locations. **Doug Packard, ACA NR**, has been in Iraq since April.



LTC Daniel Perotta, ARCC, returned from Iraq in September.

Tina Ellis from **Fort Dix** arrived in Iraq the last week of October and works at the Contracting Office at Camp Tallil.

Becky Rittenhouse, Fort Riley, and **Anne Tucker, Fort Carson**, are deploying to support the Army Corps of Engineers recovery efforts from Hurricane Katrina.

The grandson of **ACA NR HQ's Linda Padgett** received the Purple Heart on 4 July 2005 in Kandahar, Afghanistan. He is shown here being congratulated by a Denver Bronco's Cheerleader. Edward Caldwell was the driver of a Humvee that was bombed by Taliban on 21 May 2005.



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View From The Trenches

Bryan Samson

APG Director of Contracting

Getting a Jump on Transformation. Many years ago as a young Army paratrooper, I would catch a view of the distant horizon as I descended to the ground under my canopy. It was a long ways off and devoid of detail but, from 1200 feet up, it was a captivating sight.

Today, those at the top have established and defined a new horizon for our service. They have the 1200-foot vantage point

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that enables them to see into the distance. Our Army has set out on a course, transformation, to reach the future capabilities we require. As we prepare to jump into FY06, the ACA, like a tactical unit, should prepare for upcoming operations.

At the DOC-level, success will be determined by continuing to place priority on customers, processes, and people.

To continue, please click [here](#).

Happenings

Bringing PRWeb Training to our Customers

What is the best way to deliver training to your customers- live teachers or osmosis? ***Northern Region Contracting Center*** (NRCC) provided training using the former method for its paperless acquisition system, PRweb, at three locations. To read how NRCC took PRWeb to its customers, click [here](#).

National Security Personnel System (NSPS) (aka Pay Banding) Update. ACA NR is scheduled for conversion in Spiral 2. This should occur in October 2007. CPACs will convert shortly under Spiral 1. This will enable the human resources world to identify any problems and to fix them before we convert. NSPS regulations are in the final stages of revision. DOD has said that changes have been made to the proposed rules, which were issued in February 2005. Final regulations will be published soon in the Federal Register and can take effect 30 days after publication.

Federal Employee Health Benefits open season near.

The Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) and the Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) Open Seasons will begin on November 14, 2005 and end on December 12, 2005. Elections made during this time will be effective on January 8, 2006.

It is imperative that you be aware of any plan changes that could affect your coverage in the New Year. For example, a huge cost increase in your premium.

To read more about changes in your particular health plan, or to view other plans, please visit the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM's) website at <https://www.opm.gov>. For more information on FSA, please visit their website at www.fsafeds.com.

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Making A Customer Service Attitude Permanent

Making customer a priority means a top down commitment and a bottom up effort. NRCC is making those commitments and efforts. **Lance Beuschel**, the Chief, Customer Support/Business Systems Div, **NRCC** tells about how they are working through the challenges. Read it by clicking [here](#).

Fort Riley gets a "no more fee-for-service" policy. In an effort to reduce the number of fee-for-service transactions at the installation and to reduce the number of unauthorized commitments, the Commanding General of Fort Riley issued policy that includes this admonition:

"Members of this command will coordinate with the (DOC) to discover (authorized means of making rapid commercial purchases) and use them and only them."

The policy new also includes this direction:

"No member of this command may make telephonic or Internet orders directly to (AMC), (DLA), (GSA) or any prime vendors of the foregoing."

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On the regulatory radar

Government Property.

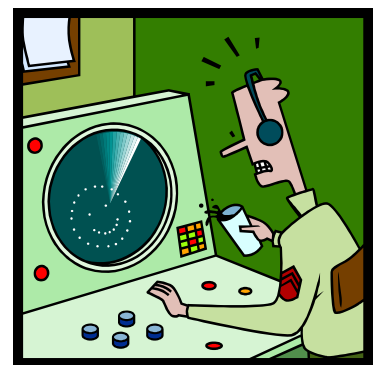
FAR Proposed Rule 2004-025, Government Property, is available for download at-

<http://www.acqnet.gov/far/ProposedRules/proposed.htm>.

The proposed rule amends the FAR to simplify procedures, clarify language, and eliminate obsolete requirements related to the management and disposition of Government property in the possession of contractors.

Comments are due on November 18, 2005.

Proper Use of Non-DoD Contracts.



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Mary Paige, ACA NRHQ sends: This notice of the Annual Report for Assisted Acquisitions is provided for your information only. The data collection and reporting requirements are the responsibility of the requiring activity. For more about this requirement, click [here](#).

August 4, 2005 DAR Council meeting, and highlights from FAC 2005-05. For details, click [here](#).

DAR Council Highlights.

a. 2005-015 Common Identification Standard for Contractors - Federal identity credentials for electronic and physical authentication, and Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) services.

b. 2005-026 Removal of Sanctions Against Libya -- Implements the executive order 13357.

FAC 2005-05 amends the FAR as specified below:

a. Definition of Information Technology (FAR Case 2004-030) This interim rule amends FAR 2.101(b) to revise the definition of "information technology" to add "analysis" and "evaluation" and to clarify the term "ancillary equipment."

b. Documentation Requirement for Limited Sources under Federal Supply Schedules (FAR Case 2005-004)- amends the FAR to incorporate ordering procedures for orders against Federal Supply Schedules (FSS), including the documentation requirements for justifying sole source orders.

c. Payment Withholding (FAR Case 2004-003)- removes the mandatory requirement that a contracting officer to withhold 5 percent of the payments due under a time-and-materials contract, unless it is necessary to withhold payment to protect the Government's interest or otherwise prescribed in the contract Schedule.

d. Confirmation of HUBZone Certification (FAR Case 2005-009)- Clarifies that prime contractors must confirm that a subcontractor representing itself as a Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) small business concern is certified, consistent with the requirements of 15 U.S.C. 632 et seq., as amended.

e. Government Property Rental and Special Tooling (FAR Case 2002-015)- clarifies the basis for determining rental charges for the use of Government property.

f. Technical Amendment- An editorial change is made at FAR 4.1102 in order to update a reference.

August 10 DAR Council meeting highlights.

Full details available [here](#).

Council topics include:

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[2004-D011 Radio Frequency Identification](#) -- Implements Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags.

[2005-D015 Reports of Government Property](#) -- Requires contractors to provide Item Unique Identification (IUID) data electronically

[2003-D060 Clarify the Threshold for SB Specialist Review](#)

Clarifies the threshold for small business specialist review.

[2005-007 Federal Technical Data Solution](#) – Using the Federal Technical Data Solution (FedTeDS) now mandatory for the posting of Sensitive but Unclassified information for solicitations.

[2005-022 Exception to the Buy American Act for Commercial Information Technology](#) – Exempts acquisitions of commercial item information technology from the Buy American Act.

[2005-D011 Exemption from the Buy American Act for Information Technology that is a commercial item](#) --Exempts acquisitions of information technology that are commercial items from the Buy American Act.

October 4 DAR Council meeting highlights.

The DAR Council issued interim rules for the DFAR regarding the **Prohibition of Foreign Taxation on U.S. Assistance Programs** and final rules regarding **Advisory and Assistance Services, Services D101 Quality Control of Aviation Critical Safety Items and Related, Central Contractor Registration, and Agency Waiver Authority**. For more information, click [here](#).

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From our Customers

Whether the glass is half full or half empty depends on your perspective. Whether contracting is an important part of the Army or a hindrance to the process also depends on your perspective. Our TRADOC LNO, **Debbie Ramirez**, looks at how important it is to maintain an objective outlook. For the complete article, please click [here](#).

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Legal Briefs

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Roger Neds

Chief, General Counsel, ACA NRHQ

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, Dining Facility Contracting- a small area of contracting- is one of the most heavily litigated areas of Government procurement. That trend continues. This article explores two recent important legal developments in this area: Consolidating Full Food & Dining Facility Attendant Requirements and Protests by the State Licensing Agency. For the complete text of Mr. Ned's commentary, click [here](#).

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Purchase Card Corner

Elaine Pearson

Level 3 A/OPC, ACA NR HQ

SmartPay Conference. ACA NR Agency/Organization Program Coordinators attended the Annual GSA SmartPay Conference in Boston, MA, 29 August through 1 September 2005. Government purchase card training included presentations by DoD, ACA HQs, Army Audit Agency, ACA NR, classroom sessions, and hands-on/lab sessions where participants received one-on-one technical training on the US Bank C.A.R.E. system.



Delinquency rate plummets. Thanks to a dedicated GPC team, the ACA NR GPC delinquency percentage rate is at an all time low. Total invoice payments and delinquency percentage (60+ days past due) for September 2005: CHRA: \$49.1K - 0% delinquent; TRADOC/MDW: \$60.8M - 0.0892% delinquent; IMA-East: \$11.2M - 0.3991% delinquent; IMA-West: \$6.2M - 0.0015% delinquent. Army delinquencies have also dropped from 2.7% in July 2005 to 1% in Sept 2005.

GPC Program awards more this year. Compared to FY 04, the GPC program had sales more than 3 percent higher than FY 04 (year-to-date August) and rebates for the first 3 quarters are 5.5 percent higher.

New A/OPC's. A warm welcome to the following new A/OPCs:
Fort Carson-- Angelina Sanchez and Jerlene Dodd.
Dugway Proving Ground- Rick Jaramillo.

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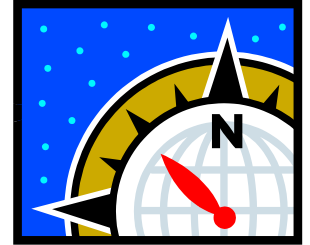
JAG School- Lisa Thomas and Ramona Torres.

Fort Lewis- Sharon Hastings and James Sun.

Fort Riley- Marsha Marsh.

West Point- Jack Econom.

Fort Leonard Ward- Susan Martin



Farewell & Good Luck: We have lost some of our corporate knowledge experience and our friends.

Fort Carson—Jean Gatta.

Fort Leonard Wood—Darlene Pemberton.

Fort Lewis—Maria Santiago and Jeannie Hoffman.

CDCC- Marcia Souza.

New ROTC Accounts. Laura Waters, the A/OPC, NRCC writes that NRCC worked with ROTC Cadet Command and US Bank to consolidate purchase card accounts for JROTC billing officials and card holders at 12 ROTC brigades. The initiative so far seems to be working rather well.

What are the benefits of centralizing these accounts? It creates one central location to procure services relating to the high school cadets for drill competitions, camps, etc. It helps avoid overspending at the high schools pertaining to the competitions (Quite a few high schools were exceeding their authorizations of spending on these trips.). Cadet Command now has oversight regarding the expenditures. This also helps them with controlling the budget for each high school.

Overall, this initiative significantly improved the effectiveness, oversight, and trackability of JROTC accounts.

STANFINS Manual Account Consolidation Project

ACA NR Purchase Card Agency/Organization Program Coordinators (A/OPCs) teamed with TRADOC/NETCOM Resource Managers to manually revise the accounting data for thousands of TRADOC/NETCOM purchase card accounts within a two-week timeframe. For more, click [here](#).

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Newsletter
Editor

ACA NR Strategic Plan Goal 4, Cultivating highly developed leaders. Developing leaders is more than simply sending individuals to short courses. A new book, *How to Grow Leaders: The Seven Key Principles of Effective Leadership Development*, by John Adair stresses that the key to nurturing leaders is to recognize excellence at three levels: strategic, operational, and team. "It is a common fallacy that all an organization needs is a good strategic leader at the helm," writes the author.

According to the author, the seven key principles are: training, selection, mentoring, gaining the chance to lead, education, strategy for development, and the chief executive.

ACA NR Strategic Plan Goal 1, A Customer-Driven Organization. Government-wide customer service initiatives. The federal government website for customer service- did you know there is one??- shows how we as federal employees are doing a good job in serving our customers. Check out this site for more good news about government customer service at http://www.customerservice.gov/success_stories.htm. Also, the American Customer Satisfaction Initiative is a Federal Government initiative to provide service equal to the best achieved in the private sector. Check out the latest scores at: http://www.customerservice.gov/historical_commentaries/e-gov_comm_0905.pdf
Keep up the good work!

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On the Money

Now- view your travel card account information online.

Travel cardholders can now self register for a Bank of America EAGLS USER ID to view their account balance, transactions, etc., at the following URL:

https://www.gcsuthd.bankofamerica.com/EAGLS_selfregistration/army_selfRegistration.aspx.

For more information, click [here](#).

GSA announces new mileage rate.



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Feedback is always
welcome!

**Newsletter
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Send your ICE
comments to:

[ICE Comment Form](#)

This is how we
measure how well
we are doing.

The new mileage rate, effective 1 Sep is posted on the official DOD PerDiem, Travel, and Transportation Allowance Committee website:

<https://secureapp2.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/faqpovpast.html>

Smart Leave and Earning Statements are here!

A notice for a new electronic product, the SmartLES, should have already appeared in your in box. For details on this enhanced version of the old leave and earning statement, click [here](#).

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Commercial Travel Office Fees for Individually Billed Accounts-Traveler Credit Card

Beginning October 1, individually billed travel accounts will accrue fees from the commercial travel office (CTO). For details, click [here](#).

DTS gets an upgrade.

An upgrade to DTS added new features, including a print preview function, the ability to change the method of reimbursement of hotel accommodations and a couple of changes to the ability to view and choose airline information. A complete description of those changes is available [here](#).

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Career Program and You

Linda Padgett

Procurement Analyst, ACA NR HQ

It's time to sign up for the Acquisition Tuition Assistance Program. The Fall 2005 Acquisition Tuition Assistance Program (ATAP) announcement includes Ms. Langston's encouragement to "go for it."

The Acquisition Tuition Assistance Program (ATAP) is the program that financed the education of many of our contracting peers. The program remains the primary funding source for all eligible Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Workforce (AL&TWF) members who are interested in pursuing their 12-24 business hour requirements or an Associate's or Bachelor's degree. Also, Level II certified GS-12s or equivalent civilian workforce members may request funding for a Master's degree in a business, scientific or technical specialty.

The application period is currently open and will close 2 Dec 05. Due to the various holidays during this timeframe place your applications early.

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Cancellation of Corps Eligible (CE) Program

Memo from the Deputy Director, Acquisition Career Management dated 19 Sep 05 announced that applications for the CE program would no longer be accepted as of 19 Dec 05. Memo dated 27 Sep 95 at website:

<http://asc.army.mil/info/policies/default.cfm> explains that the program expires 31 Dec 05. Applications to programs and boards requiring CE status will remain in effect until termination of the program. All those individuals who obtained CE status will remain valid.

Level II Certification Requirements

Early in FY 07 the DAU curriculum for Level II, contracting certification, will change. Everyone who has begun the curriculum certification track (CON 202, CON 204, and CON 210) are encouraged to make every effort to complete it in FY 06. Completion in FY 06 will preclude having to begin again with the new curriculum certification track which includes two resident and three on-line courses.

Secretary of the Army Annual Awards Call for

Nominations. The following awards are included in this call for nominations:

- Decoration For Exceptional Civilian Services (DECS)
- Secretary Of The Army Award For Valor
- Suggesters of the year
- Award For Outstanding Achievement In Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)
- Small And Disadvantaged Business Utilization Award (SADBU)

For complete details, click [here](#).

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It's a Paperless World

The Ever-Changing World of Information Technology

Diane Broadway



Paperless Acquisition Procurement Analyst, ACA NRHQ

Diane Broadway has all the hot topics to push your hot buttons. She explains the latest IT issues, including Increment 2, Wide Area Work Flow, Server consolidation, and Utility privatization. For her whole article, click [here](#).

Director's Corner

This IPT was formed in response to the large number of weaknesses and threats identified by the Region's Center directors and DOC's during the ACA NR Strategic Plan SWOT analysis. The team's final report focuses on 7 areas: Management and Leadership Issues, Budget and Staffing issues, Customers, Communications, Information Technology, Training and Personnel.

Some of the issues were beyond the influence of ACA NR and could not be addressed. Others were addressed in the ACA NR Strategic Plan issued in July 2005. The remaining issues are both within the influence of ACA NR and were not addressed in the Strategic Plan. It is these Issues that are within this report. Many are commented on directly, some are commented on either in general or indirectly. It is the intent of this report to address nearly all of the weaknesses and threats identified.

Using the ACA NR Strategic Plan as a background document, comments and recommendations were developed using personal interviews, written queries and their responses, and brainstorming sessions.

The broadest category of recommendations includes those issues that ACA NR HQ should work with ACA and other commands to resolve. Next are those issues that can best be resolved using improved methods of communications. Whether communicating current management preferences or reminding the workforce of existing training opportunities, opening vertical and horizontal lines of communications is seen as a way to be a more effective region.

The report is in the final comment stages before submission, approximately November 15, 2005.

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Congratulations to our Award Winners

2005 AAC Awards Ceremony Recognizes Acquisition Stars

The acquisition community held its 2005 Army Acquisition Corps (AAC) Annual Awards Ceremony Oct. 2, 2005, at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott. The event recognized the accomplishments of the acquisition workforce's most extraordinary members and the teams they lead. The ceremony's theme, "Celebrating Our Acquisition Stars," was a tribute to the uniformed and civilian professionals who work tirelessly behind the scenes to provide combatant commanders and their Soldiers the weapons and equipment they need to execute decisive, full-spectrum operations in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

"Tonight we honored some of the outstanding men and women — military and civilian — of the Army Acquisition Corps and the greater Army acquisition, logistics and technology workforce," remarked the Honorable **Claude M. Bolton Jr.**, Army Acquisition Executive and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASAALT), who hosted the event. "As a community, we are facing some of our greatest challenges. We are serving a Nation at war and a military force that is transforming while fighting. It is clear that we have charted the right course — increasing capability, flexibility and sustainability — and that we must maintain the tremendous momentum we have built. With great challenges come great opportunities for success."

"Our courageous men and women in uniform display unrelenting tenacity, steadfast purpose, quiet confidence and selfless heroism," Bolton observed. "Let us continue to work hard and work together to ensure their decisive victory and safe return. They face threats that change — quite literally — overnight, and their success in meeting these challenges rests squarely on our collective shoulders."

U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center Director **Craig A. Spisak** presided over the event as Master of Ceremonies. Other Army and defense acquisition senior leaders present included **Dean G. Popps**, Principal Deputy to the ASAALT and Director for Iraq Reconstruction and Program Management; **Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Yakovac**, Military Deputy to the ASAALT and Director, Acquisition Career Management; **Dr. Nancy Spruill**, Director, Acquisition Resources and Analysis, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics; **Tina Ballard**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Policy and Procurement; **Wimpy D. Pybus**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Integrated Logistics Support; **Dr. Thomas H. Killion**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology and Chief Scientist; former Military Deputy to the ASAALT **Lt. Gen. (Ret.) John S. Caldwell**, **Mrs. Sandy Sieber**, Director, Army Contracting Agency, **Ms. Joann Langston**, Director, Army Contracting Agency, North Region, and **Mark Lumer**, Director of Contracts and Principal for U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC).

The evening's presentations included the Secretary of the Army Excellence in Contracting Awards, Life Cycle Logistician of the Year Award, Army Research and Development Laboratory of the Year Awards, the Secretary of the Army Awards for Acquisition Commander, Project and Product Managers of the Year and the Army Acquisition Excellence Awards.

"The United States Armed Forces are the world's most powerful, most capable and most respected military force," Bolton exclaimed. "It is a legacy that we inherited, and one that we must protect. Tonight, we will recognize those among us who are the best and the brightest, but in the world's best Army – America's Army – we are all winners."

Secretary of the Army Excellence in Contracting Awards for Fiscal Year 2004



Outstanding Contracting Officer (Civilian) at Installation-Level Center

Beth A. Mendell, ACA NR (pictured I-r Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Yakovac, Military Deputy to the ASAALT and Director, Acquisition Career Management, Tina Ballard, DASA (P & P), Beth Mendell, Claude M. Bolton Jr., ASAALT)



Outstanding Contracting Officer (Civilian) at Installation-Level Satellite

Mary Pat Shanahan, ACA NR (pictured I-r Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Yakovac, Military Deputy to the ASAALT and Director, Acquisition Career Management, Tina Ballard, DASA (P & P), Mary Pat Shanahan, Claude M. Bolton Jr., ASAALT)



Outstanding Contracting Officer (Military) in Contingency Contracting

MAJ Robert W. Shelton, ACA Northern Region (pictured I-r Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Yakovac, Military Deputy to the ASAALT and Director, Acquisition Career Management, Tina Ballard, DASA (P & P), MAJ Robert Shelton, Claude M. Bolton Jr., ASAALT)

Also at the event:



Others in attendance (l-r)- ACA NR Director Joann Langston, Carl Heckmann, Fort Campbell, Marv Kastberg, ARCC DOC, Pam Lutz, ARCC, Mary Pat Shanahan, ARCC, Beth Mendell, ARCC, and Bryan Samson, APG DOC.

For a complete list of awards and winners, click [here](#).

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News you can use

Acquisition Planning Module (APM) Enhancements

The Acquisition Planning Module is now available for use. The Acquisition Planning Module (APM) is the Army's first automated tool to support Army-wide installation level acquisition planning accessible by the requiring and acquisition activity alike. The APM can be accessed from the [ACBIS web page](#). An [APM user manual](#) is also available on the ACBIS web page. A request for access to the APM should be submitted via the [ABCAS Help Desk](#). Please indicate if you are a government employee or a contractor when request for access is submitted for the APM.

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View from the Trenches

Getting a Jump on Transformation

Bryan Samson

APG Director of Contracting

Many years ago as a young Army paratrooper, I would catch a view of the distant horizon as I descended to the ground under my canopy. It was a long ways off and devoid of detail but, from 1200 feet up, it was a captivating sight.

Today, those at the top have established and defined a new horizon for our service. They have the 1200-foot vantage point that enables them to see into the distance. Our Army has set out on a course, transformation, to reach the future capabilities we require. As we prepare to jump into FY06, the ACA, like a tactical unit, should prepare for upcoming operations.

At the DOC-level, success will be determined by continuing to place priority on customers, processes, and people. Installation contracting is a mission enabler and directly contributes to the transformation actions of our customers. When you build your capabilities and operations around your customers, you

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know you have it right. The contracting organization becomes more agile, accepting of risk, and linked to the roles and missions of the warfighters.

Processes always can be improved and made more responsive to the customer. Unless we can change our processes to achieve transformation outcomes, our relevancy will be questioned. We need to be prepared to adapt to change, and as opportunities arise, lead change. No mission gets accomplished without trained, dedicated people. Investment in our workforce will produce substantial returns. The acquisition workforce is the bottom-line catalyst for improving customer support, reinventing business processes, and institutionalizing change. Contracting's ability to support the Army's transformation plans is only as strong as the contracting personnel making it happen.

Mass tactical airdrops place hundreds of paratroopers in the sky at the same time. Mass-tacs are high-risk and require every jumper be keenly aware of their own airspace and the actions of those around them. When successfully executed, a sizable combat force can be assembled and decisive outcomes gained. As an agency, we are among the many simultaneous organizational parachutes that have to be managed properly if the collective Army is to achieve desired transformation objectives. In building and sustaining a new agency in the past three year's, the ACA has been at the forefront of transformation. Our performance record is outstanding, especially when one compares the dramatically increasing workload to authorized staffing levels. Reengineering of our contingency contracting concepts and structure, support to modularity, and conduct of deployment/redeployment missions prove the value of our agency to our Army. Our challenge is to maintain the momentum and foster innovation that facilitates continued transformation.

A 1200 foot view is key to defining the big picture and long-term objective. However, a ground level perspective has substantial value as conditions in the area of operations directly impact the execution of the mission. Any paratrooper can tell you that a calm sky at 1200 feet does not mean drop zone conditions won't be windy or full of ground hazards. Transformation cannot be top driven. Leadership at all levels must share the vision and consider the input from those charged with execution. As transformation prepares to accelerate, the ACA should take action to better posture itself for what could be an exciting jump.

- Review and update the Oct 2002 ACA Charter and missions. What we do and how we do it is very different than the vision three years ago. We have added missions and customers and have not marched in the manner we originally planned. Army contracting needs to transform based on what we really are and not based on what we thought we were going to be.
- Align staffing to workload. Make the hard decisions to resource field contracting organizations based on work volume and not on legacy staffing models based solely on the number of funded positions moved to specific ACA locations on 1 Oct 02.
- Exploit technology by demanding user-friendly and corporate level changes to PD2. Listen to the field contracting organizations. Create electronic pipelines to move work across organizations and regions to support real time matching of contracting capacity to volume of requirements. The ACANR APG DOC can support requirements from outside APG, when capacity allows, just as easily as working a local purchase request. Standard levels of contracting support and capacity can be developed and used to balance agency-wide workload.
- Be forward thinking. Organize for BRAC impacts, now. Do not allow the field contracting offices to experience dramatic workload increases resulting from BRAC realignments before staffing increases are authorized. Minimize the resource lag.
- Finally, communicate. The field needs to hear from our leaders and staff and we need to be heard by them. Be careful not to assume that the field has infinite time at our disposal to conduct new training or to comply with new mandates. From a DOC view on the ground, FY06 will bring higher workload volume, continuing need to conduct CLP training (mostly in-house as funds remain tight), four, or more, mandatory installation training classes (ethics, security, information awareness, prevention of

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sexual harassment), lengthy new training for NSPS, Wide Area Work Flow, Lean/Six Sigma, PD2 upgrades and CAR implementation. The staffs at all levels need to recognize the time challenges in the field and help eliminate the distracters that prevent us from performing our mission in an efficient manner. The risk contained in an expectation that we are able to do it all is that we won't do it well. Nothing threatens our Army's transformation more than it not taking hold because we were too busy to get behind it. Establish forums to collect good ideas and best practices. Require submission of one improvement recommendation with every performance appraisal, for all employees at all grade-levels.

The ACA's track record and the recent decision to retain the ACA as a Field Operating Agency under the ASA(ALT) validate our value to the warfighter. We can position ourselves for even greater success if we redefine, refocus, and reinforce. Redefine who we are today. Refocus on customers, processes, and people. Reinforce the efforts of the field contracting organizations with top-level support. We have some terrific talent at all levels of our agency. If we plan smart we'll have a good jump on FY06 transformation.

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Happenings

Lance Beuschel

Chief, Customer Support/Business Systems Div, NRCC

Making A Customer Service Attitude Permanent

At the highest level of DOD, the importance of Customer Service is taking on greater and greater importance, as the standardized Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) system becomes an institutionalized metric for senior leaders and their organizations. Customer Service begins with a commitment from senior leadership, and this article examines how the Northern Region Contracting Center (NRCC) implemented the Customer Service imperative of the Army Contracting Agency (ACA).

In February of 2005 the ACA arranged for the Army Logistics Management College (ALMC) to provide instruction to the ACA workforce starting with the ACA Customer Service Excellence Workshop, an eight-hour block of instruction, initially provided to the subordinate ACA regional HQ staffs and centers. When the NRCC commander participated in the initial workshop, the potential benefits of the training became apparent. The issue became one of dissemination and sustainment throughout the entire NRCC workforce with extremely limited resource.

In order to sustain the message from the Customer Service Excellence Workshop a top down command emphasis on customer service is maintained through the ICE performance metrics. Of the six NRCC contract awarding divisions, four have a distinct ICE reporting portal for customers to send ICE comment cards, while the other two are merged into one portal. Because ICE comment cards receive the highest-level scrutiny, ICE metrics serve as a constant reminder to managers in NRCC of the importance of customer service. What makes the NRCC sustainment effort unique is the bottom-up training that is delivered on a quarterly basis to all NRCC staff. The follow-up training is an internally developed product based on segments presented in the ALMC course. Each quarter an NRCC employee presents a new topic in Power Point format. The one hour briefing is emailed to remote sites. Supervisors at Carlisle and Leavenworth provide follow-up customer service training to their staff, using the electronically distributed materials developed by NRCC.

Since the implementation of continuous customer service staff training, the average NRCC ICE satisfaction level has risen from 96.1% for the six months prior to customer service training to 99.3% for the five months following customer service training. Most importantly, by conducting customer service refreshment training on a quarterly basis, a message is communicated to the NRCC staff, "Customer Service is important."

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Bringing PRWeb Training to our Customers

Lance Beuschel

Chief, Customer Support/Business Systems Div, NRCC

Over the course of the summer, the Customer Support Division of the Northern Region Contracting Center (NRCC) provided training in the use of its paperless acquisition system, PRweb, at three locations. This was in response to the obvious need as evidenced by both the many requests and as part of the on going effort to support NRCC's customers as efficiently as possible.

The first classes were held on June 29th and July 6th at Fort Lee, Virginia. Three classes were offered each day and 44 took advantage of the opportunity.

The next set of classes was offered to all interested customers in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia. We reserved a room in the Army Education Center at Fort Eustis to hold three classes each on the 26th and 27th of July making space for 144 people. When the email went out announcing the training, the response was tremendous. Four days before classes were scheduled to begin, the officially available space of 24 people for each of the 6 classes was filled.

The Army Education Center told us that extra chairs could be brought in if needed so each class was over-booked between 2 and 4 people. All who expressed interest in attending were offered a spot. No one was turned away. While the number of actually attendees was less than booked, we still ended up with 137 people in the classes: 90 from Fort Eustis, 35 from Fort Monroe, 11 from Fort Lee and 1 from Fort Story.

The third set of classes was held over the course of 3 days (6th, 7th, and 8th of September) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Eight classes were held with a total attendance of 57 people, 9 of whom were from Fort Riley. Those weren't NRCC's customers but were accommodated both because there was room and in the spirit of cooperation and team work.

Each of the 20 classes consisted of an overview of the entire PRweb system with an emphasis on the new features found in Version 3.0, installed in April of this year. With no questions, a straight run-through of the briefing material takes approximately an hour and fifteen minutes. The shortest class lasted an hour and thirty minutes, the longest two hours. While the features found in the latest version of PRweb were new to many, there were also a surprising number of features that have been a part of the software from day one that turned out to be unknown to many of the attendees. These are features that can, and hopefully will, make using the system much easier for those that now know they exist.

The response to the training opportunity points out the fact that too often we rely on osmosis as the preferred method of providing information to customers, whereby one person learns something and passes it on to another, who passes it along, and so on and so on. Easy? Yes. Effective? No. In FY06, the NRCC will continue to provide PRWeb training classes in the Hampton Roads area as well as the other locations that we service.

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On the Regulatory Radar

Mary Paige

Procurement Analyst

ACA NRHQ

Proper Use of Non-DoD Contracts

The below notice of the Annual Report for Assisted Acquisitions is provided for your information only. **The data collection and reporting requirements are the responsibility of the requiring activity.**

The Army Policy on Proper Use of Non-DoD Contracts became effective on July 12, 2005. There is an annual reporting requirement for assisted acquisitions. Attached and at the website is an updated version of the annual report for assisted acquisitions.

Please remember to have your report in by November 1, 2005. If you have a negative report, please state this in an e-mail to me include the program office code or the funding code office.

MACOM Commanders and PEOs/DRPMs shall ensure that requiring activities within their organizations collect data on their use of assisted acquisitions for purposes of analysis. No later than November 1st of each year, MACOM Commanders and PEOs/DRPMs shall submit the enclosed Army Assisted Acquisition Summary Report. A central report per Department of Defense Activity Address Code (DODAAC) from the MACOM Commanders and PEOs/DRPMs is required.

The Army Assisted Acquisition Summary Report is available in a downloadable Excel spreadsheet format found at the ASA(ALT) website at:

<https://webportal.saalt.army.mil/saal-zp/armyreportforassistedacquisition.xls>

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August 4, 2005 DAR Council meeting, and highlights from FAC 2005-05.

1. August 4, 2005 DAR Council meeting, and highlights from FAC 2005-05. Note important information highlighted in red.
 - a. DAR Council Highlights.
 - a. 2005-015 Common Identification Standard for Contractors -- This case adds language that requires Federal agencies to acquire only approved products and services for a complete category of Authentication Services, which includes electronic authentication for browser-based access, Federal identity credentials for electronic and physical authentication, and Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) services.
 - b. 2005-026 Removal of Sanctions Against Libya -- Implements the executive order 13357.
- b. FAC 2005-05 amends the FAR as specified below:

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i. Definition of Information Technology (FAR Case 2004-030)

This interim rule amends FAR 2.101(b) to revise the definition of "information technology" to reflect the recent changes to the definition resulting from the enactment of Public Law 108-199.

The new language at Section 535(b) of Division F of Public law 108-199 permanently revises the term "information technology," which is defined at 40 U.S.C. 11101, to add "analysis" and "evaluation" and to clarify the term "ancillary equipment." This permanent change to the terminology necessitated this interim rule to amend the FAR.

ii. Documentation Requirement for Limited Sources under Federal Supply Schedules (FAR Case 2005-004)

On June 18, 2004, DoD, GSA, and NASA published FAR case 1999-603 (69 FR 34231) amending the FAR to incorporate ordering procedures for orders against Federal Supply Schedules (FSS), including the documentation requirements for justifying sole source orders. The rule inadvertently established these justification and approval requirements for sole source orders instead of when an ordering activity restricts consideration of schedule contractors to less than the required number. This rule corrects that oversight. The final rule also based the content of the documentation requirements on that in FAR 6.303-2. By doing so, the rule established some unintentional and inapplicable content requirements, especially for orders under the simplified acquisition threshold (SAT). This rule corrects those unintended changes by establishing the standard for justifying restricted orders under the SAT and accurately specifying the justification content for restricted orders above the SAT. The rule will clarify the procedures for ordering activities.

iii. Item III-Payment Withholding (FAR Case 2004-003)

Contracting officers and contracting officer's representatives who award or administer Time-and-Materials or Labor-Hour contracts or orders should be familiar with this amendment. Also, contractor personnel who are responsible for managing invoicing for those types of contracts should be aware of this new requirement. The amendment removes the mandatory requirement that a contracting officer to withhold 5 percent of the payments due under a time-and-materials contract, unless it is necessary to withhold payment to protect the Government's interest or otherwise prescribed in the contract Schedule. It requires the use of a contract modification in order to make payment withholding and, in the event withholding is required, the contractor is responsible to withhold the amounts from its billings.

iv. Confirmation of HUBZone Certification (FAR Case 2005-009)

This interim rule amends FAR 19.703 and the clause at 52.219-9 to clarify that prime contractors must confirm that a subcontractor representing itself as a Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) small business concern is certified, consistent with the requirements of 15 U.S.C. 632 et seq., as amended. This change is expected to increase subcontracting opportunities for certified HUBZone small business concerns and ensure accurate reporting of awards to HUBZone small business concerns under Government contracts.

v. Government Property Rental and Special Tooling (FAR Case 2002-015)

This final rule amends FAR Parts 45 and 52 to clarify the basis for determining rental charges for the use of Government property. The change, which is intended to promote the dual use of such property, will impact contracting officers and property administrators responsible for the management of Government property and contractors that desire to use Government property for commercial purposes.

vi. Technical Amendment

An editorial change is made at FAR 4.1102 in order to update a reference.

To review DFARS cases go to web site <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dars/index.htm> for FAR Cases go to <http://www.arnet.gov/far/>

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Highlights from the DAR Council meeting August 10, 2005.

1. Cases discussed were as follows:

2004-D011 Radio Frequency Identification -- Implements Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags.

2005-D015 Reports of Government Property -- Establishes requirements for contractors to provide Item Unique Identification (IUID) data electronically into the IUID Registry for all DoD personal property in the possession of the contractor.

2003-D060 Clarify the Threshold for SB Specialist Review -- Implements a DFARS Transformation complex proposal to clarify the threshold for small business specialist review.

2005-007 Federal Technical Data Solution -- Makes use of the Federal Technical Data Solution (FedTeDS) mandatory for the posting of Sensitive but Unclassified information for solicitations.

2005-022 Exception to the Buy American Act for Commercial Information Technology -- Implements Section 517 of Division H Title V of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (Pub. L. 108-447). Section 517 authorizes exemption from the Buy American Act for acquisitions of information technology that are commercial items.

2005-D011 Exemption from the Buy American Act for Information Technology that is a commercial item -- Implements Section 517 of Division H Title V of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (Pub. L. 108-447). Section 517 authorizes exemption from the Buy American Act for acquisitions of information technology that are commercial items.

To review DFARS cases go to web site <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dars/index.htm> for FAR Cases go to <http://www.arnet.gov/far/>

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Highlights from the DAR Council meeting October 4, 2005.

DFARS Interim Rule

2004-D012 Prohibition of Foreign Taxation on U.S. Assistance Programs: DoD has issued an interim rule amending the DFARS to implement a statutory prohibition on foreign taxation under contracts funded by U.S. assistance programs. The rule addresses the responsibilities of the contractor and the contracting officer regarding the prohibition. This interim rule is effective September 30, 2005. Comments are due on or before November 29, 2005.

2. DFARS FINAL RULES

2003-D042 Advisory and Assistance Services: DoD has issued a final rule amending the DFARS to update text pertaining to the acquisition of advisory and assistance services. This rule is a result of a transformation initiative undertaken by DoD to dramatically change the purpose and content of the DFARS. EFFECTIVE DATE: September 30, 2005.

2003- Services D101 Quality Control of Aviation Critical Safety Items and Related: DoD has adopted as final, with changes, an interim rule amending the DFARS to implement Section 802 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004. Section 802 requires DoD to establish a quality control policy for the procurement of aviation critical safety items and the modification, repair, and overhaul of those items.

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EFFECTIVE DATE: September 30, 2005. Federal Register / Vol. 70, No. 169 / Friday, September 30, 2005 / Rules and Regulations 57188

2003-D040 Central Contractor Registration: DoD has adopted as final, with changes, an interim rule amending the DFARS to remove policy on Central Contractor Registration (CCR) that duplicated policy found in the FAR. The rule also addresses requirements for use of Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) codes in DoD contracts. EFFECTIVE DATE: September 30, 2005.

2005-D019 Defense Logistics Agency Waiver Authority: DoD has issued a final rule amending the DFARS to authorize the Defense Logistics Agency Component Acquisition Executive to waive domestic source restrictions on the acquisition of ball and roller bearings, when adequate domestic supplies are not available to meet DoD requirements on a timely basis. EFFECTIVE DATE: September 30, 2005.

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From our Customers

Deborah Ramirez

TRADOC LNO, ACA NR HQ

Getting To Lean Six Sigma

A few years back, I had the opportunity to hear comedian Bill Cosby as the keynote speaker at my daughter's college graduation. Of course, the college graduation of my first-born was, for me, quite a momentous occasion, and to have Bill Cosby of "Fat Albert" and "Pudding Pop" fame as the speaker was icing on the cake. While the ceremony was to congratulate the proud young graduates on their accomplishments, Mr. Cosby also reminded his young audience that they did not achieve this without the backing and support of others. With his humor, he brought recognition also to the parents, teachers, administrators and others who had contributed in various ways to the young graduates' accomplishment.

To wrap up his message, he reminisced on his own humble beginnings and shared a family story about how once he was showing off to his grandmother by preaching to her on the differences between being an optimist or a pessimist, the old saw - half empty, or half full? The wise old grandmother took it to a new level when she observed to young Bill, "...of course, that all depends on whether you're doing the pouring or the drinking."

Although I'm not sure what impression Mr. Cosby made on his young audience, I do know I am often reminded of this story and how it applies to all of us in so many aspects of our professional and personal lives.

As an ACA Liaison, I often hear complaints from my contracting counterparts about customers who wait too late to identify requirements or don't submit adequate documentation packages. I hear customers complain that the process is too cumbersome and that the contracting office expects too much. Additionally, consider the magnitude of regulatory and policy guidance that defines how this business should be conducted and the constant barrage of news media and oversight commissions reporting either too much "red tape" or shortcomings and abuses. Overall, it seems in this business there is a steady push toward pessimism rather than optimism. However, according to Mr. Cosby, we derive our outlook from where we sit and get our view from that perspective.

The Army's recent adaptation of Lean Six Sigma should help provide a forum for addressing these concerns and ultimately improve the process. However, to realize a benefit, each individual must acquire an objective outlook and consider the possibilities of what it might take to improve the process.

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To start, we could ask ourselves, as a contracting community, where would we be without our customers? As contracting professionals, how could we be effective without regulatory and policy guidance that affords structure to the process? Where would we be without the oversight that reinforces the legal and ethical boundaries to maintain integrity in the process?

The basic principles of Lean Six Sigma suggest we must find ways of changing the way we work through a combination of creativity and a better understanding of our customers and the overall process, from requirements generation to the validation of quality in the performance of contracts.

To implement the principles of Lean Six Sigma will require that we better document how we work, and necessitate an objective step back to examine the process flow. Then we may offer to ourselves and our customers the knowledge and methods to eliminate variation in process outputs and better utilize time.

Lean Six Sigma is about management and process improvement and offers great potential to bring about awareness and recognition of the service we collectively provide to our customers each day.

Yet, on any given day we each will also need to examine our role, be it a pourer or a drinker, to determine the fullness or emptiness of our glasses and gain a full appreciation of what we might do to improve the process. Cheers!

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On the Money

Get Travel Card Account Information Online

Duna Ellis
ACA NR HQ

Travel cardholders can now self register for a Bank of America EAGLS USER ID to view their account balance, transactions, etc., at the following URL:

https://www.qcsuthd.bankofamerica.com/EAGLS_selfregistration/army_selfRegistration.aspx.

TRAVELERS MUST USE THE INFORMATION EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS ON THEIR TRAVEL CARD. Any deviation will result in an error message. The bank will send the USER ID via regular mail to the address on their account. Once received, they can establish a password and begin viewing their travel card account information. They will be able to make address and phone number changes. In order to answer questions, test the URL before you disseminate, so you are familiar with the screen they will see.

Also, effective 1 Sep 05, individuals are entitled to a free credit report from each of the three credit reporting agencies/bureaus (Experian, TransUnion, and Equifax). For more information, and to order your report online, go to: www.annualcreditreport.com. This is highly beneficial in an age in which Identity Theft is on the rise.

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Commercial Travel Office Fees for Individually Billed Accounts-Traveler Credit Card

Jean Melson
Budget Analyst, ACA NRHQ

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Effective 1 October all travel purchased with an individual billed account (IBA) through the CTO office will be charged a transaction fee. The fee varies by the DTR (Defense Travel Region) in which the traveler is located (to find your region see the attached DTR map). This fee applies for all ARC (airline) and non-ARC (hotel, rental car, AMTRAK) charges. The benefit of using the IBA (from a G4 perspective) is that it reduces the amount of funds that have to be provided for CBA (centrally billed account - non-traveler credit card) management. You have not seen this charge before because it was charged against one of the CBAs that are maintained at the installation specifically for transaction fees. The fees for the option period beginning 1 Oct are:

ARC (airline)

DTR1 - \$18.52

DTR2 - \$17.86

DTR4 - \$18.19

DTR5 - \$18.30

NCR - \$22.24

Non-ARC (hotel, rentalcar, AMTRAK)

\$8.75 for all DTRs

You will claim the appropriate amount for one purchase. For example in DTR4, if you have airline, hotel and rental car, your total cost is \$18.19; if you have hotel and rental car booked through the CTO your total cost is \$8.75.

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The latest update to DTS

Jean Melson

Budget Analyst

ACA NRHQ

In August, DTS was upgraded from version 1.6.4.3 to 1.6.4.5. The following functionalities were added:

Print Preview: Overlooked in the change proposal summaries was the new Print Preview feature on the Trip Preview page. All users will be able to view and print a copy of the document from that page. The new button in the upper right hand portion is accessible in the view or edit modes, from Official Travel, Official Travel Others, and Route & Review.

Hotel MOR: The ability to change the method of reimbursement (MOR) for hotel and air is now available on the Travel screen for saving the selected arrangements (CP 426A). For hotel, the MOR is defaulted based on the presence of a GOVCC account and Mandatory Use status. Exempt users will see all three selections (GOVCC, Personal, GOV Funds - used for non-reimbursable contract provided lodging) if they have a GOVCC in their profile. Non-Exempt users default to GOVCC or PERSONAL. If the account number and expiration date are properly entered into the profile, the default for non-exempt is GOVCC. If there is no valid GOVCC in the profile, the default is PERSONAL. This default is not editable between GOVCC and PERSONAL for non-exempt users (CP 357 installed with the Madison Release). For most travelers (non-exempt), the new feature for hotel MOR only facilitates changing the default to GOV FUNDS.

Air Availability: Remember that on the initial return, only the GSA contract city-pair (CCP) flights are identified. A selection of other coach flight with seats available are listed to fill the display to 25 available flights, but are not identified as Government (CCP matching "me-too") or Non-Government (unrestricted.) This identification does not occur until after the user selects the flight for pricing as it is part of the automated faring process. In order to select the CCP and or price the other coach flights, select up to 10 flights, then request pricing. Then the normal select and save process occurs.

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Air Availability: Selection and display changes were intended to improve flight displays for secondary, non-major airports and increase the selection of flights. This was accomplished. With the doubling of the window for searching (8 hours vice 4 hours), there are more flights available to display. The GSA contract city-pairs (CCP) are displayed at the top, to include the capacity controlled CCP. The remaining flights to be displayed (up to a total of 25) are unrestricted coach flights and are selected for display in availability based on flight duration (not closest to the requested departure time.) Our efforts to date indicate this biases the display to direct flights (the shortest elapsed time) and sometimes to one airline, which appears to have the shortest flight time between two airports. This may not appear correct to users and especially affects major airports (Dulles, San Francisco, Atlanta, etc.) The closest times to the request departure / arrival time is not used for the unrestricted selection. We are reviewing the logic and are considering a change to incorporate both elapsed and closest to the request.

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Electronic Statements Through myPay

Kit Lindfors

Human Resources Specialist, ACA NR HQ

Beginning October 2005, employees will receive an email notification that their SmartLES is available, including a hyperlink to the site where you can view your SmartLES:

<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx?FLPS=LES~DCPS>.

The SmartLES is an enhanced LES product that contains two types of embedded links. One provides an explanatory text about information in specific blocks on the LES; the other allows comparison between current data and the previous pay period data. The block titles are highlighted in **blue**. Click on them, and text boxes will appear, explaining the type of data in that block. The information in **green** indicates data that has changed from the prior LES. Click on the **green** text to compare current data with data from the prior pay period. The SmartLES even provides detail on leave used during the pay period and dynamic links to other applications and web sites, such as OPM.

The email you receive will appear as "SmartDocs@dfas.mil" in the "From" box. Clicking on the link within the email establishes a secure socket layer (SSL) connection with an encrypted session, just like logging onto the myPay site. If preferred, copy and paste the link (<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx?FLPS=LES~DCPS>) into your web browser or key it in to your web browser directly. You may even wish to add it as a favorite link for 24/7 access.

To receive the emails and access SmartLES, you must have an email address within the myPay system and a customized myPay PIN. If you don't have a PIN, go to the myPay web page at <https://mypay.dfas.mil> to request a PIN. By logging in to myPay, you can see if your email address is in the system. If it isn't, you may enter a personal email address under the "Secure Personal Email Address" area to ensure you will receive the email.

In accordance with OSD memo of April 29, 2005, all non-bargaining unit DOD employees who have accessed myPay since July 1, 2005 have been defaulted to an electronic LES.

Related Link: myPay -- <https://mypay.dfas.mil>
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Career Program and You

Linda Padgett

Procurement Analyst

ACA NRHQ

Cancellation of Corps Eligible (CE) Program

Memo from the Deputy Director, Acquisition Career Management dated 19 Sep 05 announced that applications for the CE program would no longer be accepted as of 19 Dec 05. Memo dated 27 Sep 95 at website: <http://asc.army.mil/info/policies/default.cfm> explains that the program expires 31 Dec 05. Applications to programs and boards requiring CE status will remain in effect until termination of the program. All those individuals who obtained CE status will remain valid.

Level II Certification Requirements

Early in FY 07 the DAU curriculum for Level II, contracting certification, will change. Everyone who has begun the curriculum certification track (CON 202, CON 204, and CON 210) are encouraged to make every effort to complete it in FY 06. Completion in FY 06 will preclude having to begin again with the new curriculum certification track which includes two resident and three on-line courses.

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Call for award nominations

The Army Incentive Awards Board is soliciting call for nominations for The Secretary Of The Army Annual Awards Ceremony. This award is distinct from the Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting. The Secretary Of The Army Annual Awards Ceremony recognizes Civilian and military personnel for exceptional achievements and outstanding contributions to mission accomplishment.

The following award categories will be considered for inclusion in the awards ceremony.

- Decoration For Exceptional Civilian Services (DECS)
- Secretary Of The Army Award For Valor
- Suggesters of the year
- Award For Outstanding Achievement In Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)
- Small And Disadvantaged Business Utilization Award (SADBU)

Eligibility Requirements:

- Military and career civilian members may be nominated for the Suggesters, EEO, and SADBU awards.
- Only career civilian personnel may be nominated for the DECS and the Valor awards.
- Nominees for these awards must meet the eligibility criteria established for these awards.
- Commanders should ensure that military and career civilian members are considered in those categories for which they are eligible.

Nominations for all award categories must include the following:

- Endorsement by a Major Army Command (MACOM) Commander and DA Form 1256.
- EEO certification completed on each nominee per guidance contained In AR 672-20, Para 2-2.

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- Biographical data including employment history.
- Proposed citation consisting of 50 to 60 words. The citation should highlight the nominees specific achievement.
- Electronic photograph for each nominee suitable for inclusion in the ceremony program booklet.
- Verification that the nominees will be available for the ceremony.

(note: nominations considered for presentation at the ceremony must be boarded by the Army Incentive Awards Board and approved by the Secretary of the Army. Approved nominations will be held for presentation at the ceremony scheduled in March 2006 unless the Command requests otherwise. Commands will be notified of which awards have been approved.)

Please read the attached message for further information.

Request nominations be sent to ACA NR to Linda Padgett by **18 November 2005**. You are highly encouraged to nominate all those who meet the eligibility criteria.

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Legal Briefs

Roger Neds

Chief, General Counsel

ACA NR HQ

DINING FACILITY CONTRACTING: THE LEGAL WARS CONTINUE

"For every action there is an equal and opposite government program."

Bob Wells

In a previous newsletter, I wrote an article on contracting for dining facility services and the special legal considerations that apply in those procurements. I mentioned the fact that this small area of contracting is one of the most heavily litigated areas of Government procurement. That trend continues. This article will explore two more recent important legal developments in this area

Consolidating Full Food & Dining Facility Attendant Requirements

One of our Directorates of Contracting recently issued a solicitation for dining facility services for all of the dining halls on the installation. The solicitation called for one award for both full food service and dining facility attendants. The procurement was to be a small business set-aside with the State Licensing Agency being allowed to compete under the provisions of the Randolph-Sheppard Act (RSA).

A private offeror protested to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) raising several protest grounds including the argument that the combination of full food services and dining facility attendants into one award constituted improper bundling under the Competition in Contracting Act. Although the protest was resolved without this allegation being ruled on, the Contract Appeals Division, the Department of Army office charged with defending all ACA protests before the GAO, advised that this type of protest is likely to be sustained by the GAO unless the consolidation of requirements can be properly justified.

Consequently, if one award for both types of service is contemplated, the best course is to prepare a "bundling" analysis that demonstrates that the combination of the two requirements into a single award is the best economic decision for the Army. This analysis should be a true business case analysis. The guidance at FAR Part 7-107 is a good starting point for such an analysis. In the alternative, if a requiring activity can demonstrate convincingly that the combination of requirements is

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necessary to avert a probable mission failure, that demonstration may also be enough to withstand a bundling protest. In any event, seek legal advice early in these types of acquisitions.

Protests by the State Licensing Agency

In yet another Federal Appeals Court decision in this area, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC) recently rendered a decision involving a food service award arising out of Fort Campbell. In that case, the Contracting Officer excluded a proposal from the competitive range submitted by the State Licensing Agency (SLA) of Kentucky in conjunction with its designated blind vendor. Under the Randolph-Sheppard Act, if a proposal by an SLA falls within the competitive range, it is normally entitled to receive the award. In addition to establishing this priority, the RSA also designates the Department of Education (DoE) as the agency with responsibility for enforcing the provisions of the Act and gives the DoE various authorities to carry out that mission. One of those authorities is the ability to conduct arbitration panels should an SLA believe it has been improperly treated by an agency under the RSA. To that end, the Department of Education has established regulations on the make up and conduct of such arbitration panels.

Upon learning of the Contracting Officer's decision, the Kentucky SLA filed a protest with the U.S. Court of Federal Claims alleging that the Contracting Officer erred in excluding the proposal from the competitive range. The Department of Justice, on behalf of the Army, filed a motion to dismiss the protest on the grounds that the Court lacked jurisdiction. Specifically, the Government argued that the SLA was required to "exhaust its administrative remedies" before it could seek judicial relief. In other words, the Government claimed that the SLA must file a complaint with the DoE, go through the arbitration process, and lose in that forum before it could pursue its protest in Court.

The Court of Federal Claims ruled in the Government's favor and dismissed the protest. The Kentucky SLA appealed that decision to the CAFC. The CAFC upheld the lower court ruling finding that the arbitration procedures were mandatory and had to be followed by the SLA before it could seek judicial relief. This decision mirrors a similar opinion issued last year by the GAO in the series of protests arising out of the Fort Lewis procurement of dining hall services. In that opinion, the GAO held that an SLA must go through the DoE procedures before it could file a GAO protest. In light of the Court's opinion and the GAO's earlier ruling, an SLA that believes it has been improperly denied its priority under the RSA cannot immediately file a bid protest with either the Court or the GAO. Rather it must first use the DoE arbitration procedures.

While the full ramifications of this ruling may not be clear for several years, I believe that this change will provide some benefit to the Government as it does the procurement, but will also create several drawbacks. The primary benefit to the Government will be in those cases where the Contracting Officer does not decide to include the SLA in the competitive range. Since the SLA cannot protest to the GAO immediately, it cannot use that mechanism to trigger a stay in the award or the performance of the contract. Similarly, it is unlikely that the SLA could have the procurement enjoined at the Court of Federal Claims. Consequently, the procurement can go to award and performance can occur while the complaint works its way through the DoE system. Should the Army lose at the arbitration and choose not to fight that loss, it would then take appropriate corrective action, probably in the nature of a termination or a decision to not exercise an option.

The little history we have with the arbitration system shows it to be fairly slow. This will be an advantage from the standpoint that there will not be the time pressure to respond to a protest and prepare an agency report that we normally face with a GAO protest. On the other hand, the slowness of the arbitration process could be detrimental if we find we are forced to terminate a contract that has been in place for a period of time, generating larger termination costs.

The most serious potential drawback to this ruling is the possibility that the arbitration panels will be biased toward the SLA and against the Army. There is a perception that the DoE tends to side with the SLA when the SLA has a dispute with another federal agency. Should that perception become

reality, SLAs may become bolder in their pricing knowing that they will get a review at a “friendlier” forum if the Army chooses not to award a contract because of the SLA’s higher price.

One of the more intriguing legal questions that this decision leaves open is the status of the agency protest procedures in this area. In the case of the ACA, this becomes even more intriguing when you also consider the ELAP option that an offeror has. The agency procedures do not have the statutory underpinnings that underlie the GAO and Court of Federal Claims protest jurisdiction. Therefore, it is not at all clear at this point that the “failure to exhaust administrative remedies” would be a valid basis for denying an agency protest. Moreover, since the agency protest procedures as well as the ELAP procedures are specifically designed to allow the agency to take a fresh look at its actions in order to avoid later litigation, it may not be in the agency’s best interests to dismiss such a protest even if it could technically do so. This leads to the ironical notion that the only way a disappointed SLA may be able to halt a procurement is by filing a form of agency protest.

Finally, it must be kept in mind that this decision only applies to the narrow set of circumstances where an SLA wishes to challenge an action that was taken under an RSA procurement. If the SLA is offering on a requirement that is not subject to the RSA, this decision will not apply. Similarly, any private offeror that wishes to challenge a decision on a requirement that is subject to the RSA will still have the right to protest to the GAO or the Court of Federal Claims and to avail itself of all of the rights and protections those procedures afford.

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Purchase Card Corner

Elaine Pearson

Level 3 A/OPC, ACA NR HQ

STANFINS Manual Account Consolidation Project

ACA NR Purchase Card Agency/Organization Program Coordinators (A/OPCs) teamed with TRADOC/NETCOM Resource Managers to manually revise accounting data for thousands of TRADOC/NETCOM purchase card accounts within a two-week timeframe.

Initially, an electronic consolidation was anticipated to update the accounting data; however, on 11 October 2005, a test-run by US Bank raised questions regarding the accuracy of the data obtained from DFAS files and the reliability of the proposed electronic consolidation. The DOD Purchase Card Program Management Office, DFAS, TRADOC RM, ACA NR/SR, and US Bank agreed that a manual process was the best way to update the TRADOC/NETCOM lines of accounting. A/OPCs were notified of this requirement and accepted the challenge with a “can-do attitude” to perform the following tasks:

- Work with RMs to perform manual updates of the new TRADOC/NETCOM child rule sets in C.A.R.E. by the end of the billing cycle on 21 Oct 2005.
- Manual update of the new payment router codes in CARE.
- Work closely with the servicing DFAS office on a weekly basis to ensure that the new TRADOC/NETCOM child rule sets are not rejecting in CARE.
- Notify the TRADOC/NETCOM RM on CARE rejects for corrective action.
- Ensure that manual billing statements are submitted to DFAS for payments on all rejects.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the ACA NR Level 4 A/OPCs in working with TRADOC/NETCOM Resource Managers, the manual consolidation successfully met the deadline to update accounting data for thousands of billing officials and card holder accounts.

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The Ever-Changing World of Information Technology

Diane Broadway

Paperless Acquisition Procurement Analyst, ACA NRHQ

Well, I've not taken the opportunity to chat with you for the past couple issues of our newsletter due to both the fast-paced nature and the uncertainty of the information technology environment. So let me rectify that with this article. I still have few solid answers. I'm not completely comfortable with the bureaucracies with whom we all must deal, and from your perspective in the field, it just has to be untenable! But I keep plugging away. And above all, I try not to emulate them – the success of which is left for you to decide.

Increment 2. ACA NR is deep in the throes of upgrading PD2 to Increment 2. Some of you have already completed your upgrades. Some of you are apprehensive to tackle your upgrades, understandably so, having heard many horror stories from those who have preceded you. A subtle message to the Centers and DOCs leadership – support your SAs! They keep your systems up and running. They often act as Help Desk support for a myriad of PC woes, from the simplistic glitch (anyone ever forget to turn your printer 'on?'), to the horrendous "blue screen of death," to PD2 crashing your PC, to the server going down. Your SAs come in two general varieties – the functional SA, that most of us lay-people can understand, and the technical SA, whose language when explaining a PC ailment sounds like something from up in the stratosphere somewhere. And we need both to function as a team. Necessarily, most technical SAs have become used to the "deer-in-the-headlight" look when they try to explain PC issues to the less technically savvy among us and have become extremely well-versed in the art of ensuring their message is conveyed in a manner all customers understand. Tip o' the hat to all of our SAs who are so patient with all of us who rely on their expertise!

As I mentioned, Army is in the process of performing upgrades to PD2. The schedule has been something akin to a moving target, with the Army Desk Officer and the JPMO trying to accommodate each installation's preferences, so I've not been able to publish the schedule. Well, that's about to change – the JPMO has approved the schedule below.

INSTALLATION	Date	Status	Actions	Self/CACI
CDCC	8-Jul-05	Done	Upgrade	Self
LEWIS	22-Jul-05	Done	Upgrade	CACI
ABERDEEN	31-Oct-05	Green	Upgrade	Self
DUGWAY	7-Nov-05	Yellow	Upgrade	Self
L. WOOD	7-Nov-05	Review Pkg	Migration Only	CACI
WEST POINT	7-Nov-05	Yellow	Upgrade	Self
MCCOY	14-Nov-05	Yellow	Upgrade	CACI
DRUM	5-Dec-05	Review Pkg	Upgrade	Self
CARSON	30-Jan-06	Pkg Pend	Up & Migration	CACI
NRCC	3-Feb-06	Pkg Pend	Upgrade	CACI
ARCC	6-Feb-06	Pkg Pend	Up & Migration	CACI
RILEY	13-Feb-06	Pkg Pend	Upgrade	Self

Please understand this schedule is pretty much in granite. There are a limited number of contractor personnel available to assist in this effort, both on the Help Desk and for the CACI Deployments. We have been informed that changes will be minimal. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me. We have a wealth of experience among the SA community across ACA NR. Check out who has gone before you and talk to their SAs for some insight into what to expect. I realize that each installation is unique in its configuration, but there are also similarities and lessons learned that can be shared across the region. Even as I pen this, efforts are being made to publicize lessons learned by JPMO and CACI. Don't think you're out of the woods by having a CACI Deployment. Your SA(s) still need to stick close to the team and learn from the experience. This upgrade will be a team effort, integrating and leveraging the expertise of all involved, regardless of how it is performed. Thanks, in advance, for the tremendous team effort!

Wide Area Work Flow. Wide Area Work Flow, often abbreviated as WAWF is still coming. It has sort of taken a few detours and been stuck in the mud and mire a time or two, but it will eventually find its way back to the track. When it does, you need to be ready to implement fairly quickly. Just because Army is having issues and is working ardently to resolve them, does not mean that OSD's time table for complete WAWF implementation across DoD has slipped any. What this means for ACA NR is that you need to be prepared to move out quickly since WAWF will likely be fast-tracked once solutions have been agreed upon to some key issues. So continue to work with your customers and encourage them to continue validating their DoDAACs in anticipation of WAWF being implemented yet this fiscal year. As I receive information, it will be disseminated through the DOCs, Centers, WAWF GAMs, and SA channels.

Server Consolidation. There has been much discussion concerning server consolidation, with the advent of PD2 Increment 3 coming, nearly literally, on the heels of Increment 2. Understand that while nothing has been decided, nor funded, the idea of consolidating servers is still on the table. My suspicion is that funding and lack of uniformity in our various configurations will continue to hound our collective efforts at streamlining and more effectively managing our IT resources. Increment 3 will operate within a web-based environment, as many of you may be aware. Increment 3 will have a very different feel from the user perspective. With funding for PD2 training being cut from the JPMO, yes it's not just Army experiencing cut-backs, it is imperative that ACA NR utilize a "train-the-trainer" approach to learning to manipulate this new software. The JPMO and the Desk Officers are developing training suites to accommodate our training requirements. So stay tuned on this one. We're not there yet...

Utilities privatization. We have some serious success stories to share in the midst of the chaos and turmoil of fiscal year end. A collective effort resulted in ACA NR installations being able to count some of their utility privatization efforts. ACA NR became aware that several field sites were spending an extraordinary amount of labor in contract administration of utilities privatization contracts that was not able to be counted. All the DD-350s for modifications on these contracts were being rejected by the edit checks currently in place. An informal white paper containing a listing of non-fuel related FSCs for which DESC was the contracting activity was forwarded up the chain for consideration. The decision was made to alter the edit checks to allow us to take credit for the numerous modifications made by our personnel. This has resulted in at least \$16.5million in actions not previously counted. Many thanks for the perseverance of those involved, especially Cheryl Halbrooks, Melinda-Simmons-Healy, both from NRCC, and Richard Copperwheat from CDCC! And in case you missed seeing the email traffic, here are the FSCs for which Army is now permitted to take credit on the DD-350.

B12A FEDERAL SUPPLY CLASS (FSC) OR SERVICE CODE

R499 ESPC projects
S111 Utilities: Gas
S112 Utilities: Electric service
S114 Utilities: Water service
S119 Other Utilities
Y249 Other utilities

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Z239 Maint/EPG - other, including transmission
Z245 Maint/Water Supply Facilities
Z249 Maint/other utilities

Thanks for the hard work! If it sounds like all doom and gloom for the programs over which I have oversight, it just isn't so! I just happen to have cognizance over some of the more challenging programs. Gosh, how I love a good challenge! So, I suppose my advice to everyone involved in these programs would be to remain flexible. Change appears to be the only constant, as the cliché goes. Hang in there, folks, what you do matters to the Warfighter, and you do it very well!!! Thanks for your continuing support!

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